

Arlington Conservation Commission
Minutes
August 4, 2016

Acting-Chair Mr. Connors called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the second floor conference room, of the Town Hall Annex. Present were David White, Mike Nonni, Charles Tirone, Susan Chapnick, Curt Connors, Janine White and Catherine Garnett. Chair Nathaniel Stevens and Associate member Eileen Coleman were not present. Also present were Matt Salem, Mary Trudeau, E. W. Burns, and Megan Burns.

Commission Business:

Mr. White reported that a tree adjacent to Mill Brook at the **Watermill Place Condos** has died. It was planted as mitigation for a tree that had been removed. He asked that Ms. Beckwith contact them to replant another tree.

Ms. Coleman sent a photo to the Commission of work being done at **19 Mass Ave**. Ms. Chapnick also observed pooling of water in a large hole that was excavated and storage of heavy equipment within the fenced work area. There were still items required in the Order of Conditions to be completed prior to the start of work and the applicant was supposed to contact the Commission if dewatering was necessary. Ms. Beckwith had a few more details to determine (whether they had the Building permit), but would issue a Stop Work order if necessary, and report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

DWhite/Chapnick motioned to approve the **7/21 minutes** with edits; motion passed unanimously.

DWhite/JWhite motioned to approve the **7/14 minutes** with edits; motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Beckwith reported that the homeowner of **36 Peabody Rd** has asked to remove two trees from the Buffer Zone of Spy Pond. She has a letter from a certified arborist reporting on their conditions. This Commission would like more information: photos, are the trees an immediate hazard, what tree replacements are proposed.

Notice of Intent – Upper Mystic Lake aquatic weed management near Parker Rd

Mr. Salem presented the system of notifications to the public for each treatment, described the restrictions on the use of endothol, and removed glyphosate from the proposal and replaced it with a new chemical called Imazamox (“Clearcast”) for waterlily management, to be applied to foliage only as needed. Ms. Chapnick has reviewed some information on Imazamox and its potential effect on honeybees and therefore recommended that it only be applied on calm (not windy) days using spot-application methods to minimize spread of the chemical.

The Commission again requested year-end reports with the summary of progress of this program.

Chapnick/DWhite motioned to close the hearing; motion passed unanimously.

The Commission directed Ms. Beckwith to draft the Order of Conditions, and they will vote and sign at the next meeting on 8/18.

Notice of Intent – 88 Coolidge Rd, new house

Mr. Kirby forwarded a request to continue the hearing to 8/18 at 8:15pm.

DWhite/JWhite motioned to continue the hearing at the applicant's request; motion passed unanimously.

Notice of Intent – 12 Clyde Terrace

Ms. Trudeau presented new drawings at a larger scale and an Operation and Maintenance plan at the meeting. Changes included moving stockpile area out of the front lawn and onto the existing driveway; modified roof drains as requested by Commission; provided grading on updated plans.

Ms. Trudeau also presented information from Wetlands Bylaw that the pool is considered a "structure"; therefore, she maintained that the removal of the sheds and pool are considered removal of "structures" that are located in the resource area. She presented that removal of these impermeable structures was a benefit of the proposed project and an improvement to the resource area. She stated that the proposed plan has a 56% reduction of impervious surface for this lot.

The Commission discussed whether the applicant should provide wetland data sheets for the delineation. Ms. Trudeau's responded that they don't have permission from the adjacent private land owners to collect this data.

The Commission discussed whether the erosion controls proposed were sufficient, and concluded that silt fence should be added to the 12 inch diameter mulch filled berm. Ms. Trudeau agreed to this requirement.

When asked again if the developer could reconfigure the house to keep it out of the 50 foot Buffer Zone, Ms. Trudeau redirected the Commission to the statement provided by Mr. Seaver. The Commission was previously provided a statement from the developer describing his claimed necessity for building a house of the proposed size on this relatively small lot.

Mr. Tirone remarked that the Operation and Maintenance plan calls for 10-10-10 fertilizer, that it describes as organic, which he said is not possible. He also requests that the infiltration system be inspected twice a year in spring and fall. Ms. Trudeau

agreed to this requirement.

Ms. Beckwith asked about the soils in the backyard, including whether they will be refurbished after the pool is removed. Ms. Trudeau said that the plan is to remove all existing pool and patio materials (concrete apron and concrete pool) and that these materials would not be used to refill the hole. These materials would be disposed of off-site. Clean fill would be brought in to fill the hole.

The Commission discussed the removal of trash from the wetland on the Town property. The old pool liner, other trash, metal fencing, other large debris would be removed. Mr. Tirone requested that a condition would be to verify this clean up. He would volunteer to do this site inspection.

Ms. Beckwith made a statement that she did not see the proposed mitigation was comparable to the amount of impact that this proposal includes. She would like to see more habitat improvements besides the proposed plantings to the perimeter of the gardens.

The applicant suggested adding permanent bounds to the perimeter beds, 4 inch wide, faux concrete, with a metal stake/rebar holding them to the ground, spaced around the garden space, demarking it as a mitigation area. A condition to not mow this area should be added to the permit. The Commission discussed adding this special condition and designation of a "Habitat Area" or "Wildlife Mitigation Area"; with restrictions on mowing, restrictions on adding additional impervious surfaces, restrictions on altering native vegetation within the entire backyard (50 ft buffer zone).

Ms. Garnett added that there are wetland values to consider as being improved with the proposed plan: 1) prevention of pollution (with stormwater runoff mitigation); 2) flood control (restoration of permeability – reduction of impervious surfaces); 3) habitat value improvement (by removing structures and adding native plantings).

Chapnick/DWhite motioned to close this hearing; motion passed unanimously.

The Commission directed Ms. Beckwith to draft the Order of Conditions for the meeting on 8/18. The Commission will deliberate this proposal and vote at that meeting.

Commission Business (cont.)

Ms. Garnett reported on the **Spy Pond shoreline project**. It is moving forward.

Ms. Garnett reported on attending the first **Zoning Recodification** meeting. The committee will start by hiring a consultant. The Committee will also set up an open space working group and undertake an Open Space study.

Meeting adjourned at 9:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith